

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
January 4, 2007**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
Western District of Kentucky**

**Contact: Sandy Focken
(502) 582-5911**

**CHICAGO MAN ARRAIGNED AND DETAINED ON
GUN CONSPIRACY CHARGES**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that, on January 3, 2007, **CHARLES THORNTON** a/k/a “Shorty” a/k/a “Lil Charles,” 36, of 142 N. Latrove Street, Chicago, Illinois, was arraigned and detained for conspiring to violate federal gun laws. At a hearing on January 3, 2007, **Thornton** pled not guilty and was detained after being informed of the charge.

The Indictment, which was unsealed on December 6, 2006, alleges that between August and December of 2000, **Thornton** and others engaged in a conspiracy, under which individuals in Kentucky were paid to provide false information to federally-licensed firearms dealers. These individuals would then purchase seven guns for Thornton, who could not legally purchase the guns himself. After these guns were transferred to **Thornton** in Chicago, they were provided to people who could not legally buy the guns themselves. Prior to the transfer, several of **Thornton’s** co-conspirators removed the serial numbers from four of the handguns.

If convicted, **Thornton** faces maximum potential penalties of 5 years’ imprisonment, and a \$250,000.00 fine. Supervised release for a period of three years could also be imposed.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ann Claire Phillips, and it was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives and Chicago Police Department.

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The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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